

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 8 as indicated below.

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1. (Thrice Amended) A heat-treated elongate member formed at least in part of a composite elongate core, the composite elongate core having a proximal section and distal section, each section formed in part of a precipitation hardened material and in part of a superelastic material, wherein the precipitation hardened material and superelastic material extend from the proximal section to the tapered distal section.

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8. (Thrice Amended) A heat-treated elongate member formed at least in part of a composite elongate core, the composite elongate core having a proximal section and distal section, each section formed in part of a precipitation hardened material and in part of a superelastic material, wherein the precipitation hardened material and superelastic material extend from the proximal section to the tapered distal section, the precipitation hardenable material comprising at least two materials selected from the group consisting of nickel, cobalt, molybdenum, chromium, tungsten, and iron.